

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL USBERLIN 2658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GDR ATTEMPTS TO RAISE AIR NOISE WITH

SENAT

1. GDR FONOFF REP MITDANK INTRODUCED NEW WRINKLE IN HIS RUNNING CAMPAIGN TO TURN PERIODIC MEETING OF GDR AND SENAT SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VISITS ARRANGEMENT INTO FORUM FOR WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO SIDES WHEN HE SOUGHT DECEMBER 19 TO MAKE INFORMAL REQUEST THAT SENAT REDUCE AIR NOISE FROM TEGEL AIRPORT. MITDANK SAID THAT MANY COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN MADE BY GDR CITIZENS, PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN PARTS OF BERLIN, SINCE TEGEL OPENED, AND THAT HOSPITALS AND REST HOMES WERE BEING AFFECTED. HE ASKED THAT "THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES" IN BERLIN (WEST) TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL ABUSES AND INJURY TO PERSONS AFFECTED. MITDANK'S REQUEST PARALLELS VAGUE REMARKS ABRASIMOV MADE TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND IN SEPEMBER (USBER 1892).

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2. KUNZE, WHO IS ACCUSTOMED TO HIS ADVERSARY'S EFFORTS TO EXPAND HORIZONS OF VISITS TALKS, RESPONDED HE WAS "ABSOLUTELY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH A MATTER" AND THAT THE NOISE STEMMED FROM CRAFT OPERATED BY ALLIES "WHO HAVE SOLE RIGHTS IN THIS MATTER." MITDANK CONTENTED HIMSELF AT TIME WITH REQUESTING THAT HIS COMMENTS BE PASSED ON TO RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES. AFTER LEAVING KUNZE'S OFFICE IN RATHAUS SCHOENEBERG WHERE MEETING HELD, HOWEVER, MITDANK TOOK UNUSUAL STEP OF NOTING TO WESTERN REPORTERS HE ENCOUNTERED THAT HE HAD RAISED AIR NOISE QUETION ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS WHOSE INTERESTS GDR HAD TO PROTECT. WHEN REPORTER MADE SAME POINT AS KUNZE THAT ONLY ALLIES RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR MATTERS, MITDANK SAID GDR DID NOT WISH TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN QUESTIONOF RESPONSIBILITY BUT THAT RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES, WHOEVER THEY WERE, HAD TO CONCERN THEMSELVES CHANGING WITH SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THEREIS MODICUM OF TRUTH BEHIND MITDANK'S COMPLAINT. CERTAIN AMOUNT OF AIR NOISE IS INEVITABLE WHEN MAJOR AIRPORT IS LOCATED WITHIN CITY, AND TAKE-OFF LANDING PATHS WERE DESIGNED BY ALLIED EXPERTS SO THAT THERE WOULD BE AS LITTLE LOW- LEVEL FLYING OVER POPULATED AREAS IN WESTERN SECTORS AS POSSIBLE. IN SOME INSTANCES, THIS MEANS THAT PLANES FLY OVER AREAS CITED BY MITDANK. ON OTHER HAND, EAST BERLIN PROBLEM IS IN CERTAIN RESPECTS SIMILAR TO THAT IN WEST BERLIN. THE SITUATION IS IMPROVED IN AREAS NEAR OLD TEMPELHOF AIRPORT AND AGGRAVATED IN AREAS NEAR TEGEL. PART OF PROBLEM IS THAT PREVIOUSLY UNAFFECTED PERSONS ARE STILL GETTING USED TO NOTION OF AIRPLANES PASSING REGULARLY OVERHEAD. WEST BERLIN PRESS WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SENAT HAS LONG HAD ON HAND NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS OF BRITZ, BUCKOW, RUDOW AND LICHTENRADE IN SOUTHERN PART OF WEST BERLIN ABOUT AIR NOISE FROM NEIGHBORING GDR AIRPORT OF SCHOENEFELD. IT IS ALSO A BIT MUCH FOR GDR TO COMPLAIN THAT MEASURES TAKEN IN WEST BERLIN ARE DISTURBING DAILY ROUTINE OF PEOPLE IN EAST BERLIN.

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4. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MITDANK'S PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO INTRODUCE YET ANOTHER TOPIC INTO BILATERAL GDR-SENAT TALKS IN ORDER TO MAKE THOSE TALKS LOOK MORE LIKE TRADITIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES. EVEN MORE THAN USUAL, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE PROMPTLY BATTED DOWN SINCE AIR NOISE QUESTION LEADS DIRECTLY TO MATTERS OF SOLE ALLIED AND FOUR POWER COMETENCE. MITDANK MAY ALSO HAVE SEEN HIS PLOY AS

FIRST STEP TO STAKING OUT "LEGITIMATE" GROUNDS FOR GDR
TO RAISE ITS VOICE IN WEST BERLIN AIR MATTERS OR HE MAY
HAVE MEANT IT AS EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE COMMON "GERMAN"
INTEREST AGAINST ACTIVITIES OF ALLIES. IN EITHER EVENT,
WE WILL SUGGEST THAT, SHOULD MITDANK ATTEMPT TO RETURN
TO SUBJECT, KUNZE CUT HIM OFF WITH SIMPLE REMINDER THAT
NEITHER HE NOR MITDANK HAVE ANY COMPETENCE TO DISCUSS
MATTER AND THAT AS CONSEQUENCE HE CAN TAKE NO ACCOUNT
OF ANYTHING MITDANK SAYS ON POINT. END COMMENT.

GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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